

**BATTLE CREEK BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
October 17, 2011
5:30 p.m.
Board Room – School Administration Building**

PRESENT - BOARD OF EDUCATION

Karen Evans
William Burton
Susan Buckley
Todd Stagner
Steve Hoelscher
Art McClenney
Scott Cubberly

Present – Administration

Dr. Linda Hicks – Superintendent
Ruth Carr – Director of Student Services
Dr. Jeff Greene – Resource Development Coordinator
Deborah Gregory – Executive Director of Financial Services
Dianne Hatley – Interim Executive Director of Human Resources
Angela Mitchell – Special Education Supervisor
Tim Scott – Assistant Director of Facilities & Operations
Donna Straight – Special Education Supervisor

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Evans at 5:30 p.m. All board members were present. Approximately fifteen citizens were in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was requested that item A under reports “Vacant School Properties” be moved to item B.

The agenda was unanimously approved as amended.

Motion approved 7 – 0

REPORTS

Verona Elementary School Pilot

Toni McClenney, principal at Verona Elementary, and Kim Lehman, CISD consultant, provided an overview of the Early Grade Reading Achievement Pilot Project (EGRAPP) to be piloted at Verona Elementary. EGRAPP supports quality Tier 1 literacy instruction and interventions focused on students in kindergarten throughout the 2011-12 school year and through the summer of 2012. The grant will provide assistance and support to teachers and the building administrator, students, community volunteers, parents and families, and childcare providers in literacy instruction and assessments and activities that will ensure that students will exit kindergarten reaching literacy benchmarks. Kim Lehman, CISD consultant, reported that the initiative has a strong family component. Students take book bags home with books at their level to read to parents, or have parents read to them. Mary Ehredt, kindergarten teacher at

Verona, reported that her students currently use daily 5 strategies for literacy and is looking forward to additional resources and training.

Vacant School Properties

Superintendent Hicks presented vacant school properties for discussion. The last decision made by board members was that nothing would be done with existing properties until an informed decision could be made. Information was presented to get direction from board members. Properties include Math & Science Center, BCC Fieldhouse, W.K. Kellogg Middle School, Franklin, Washington, Wilson, Southwestern, and South Hill Academy.

- Math & Science Center recommendation: sell the property to create revenue for the district.
- Field House recommendation: find partnerships for use of the facility.
- W.K. Kellogg Middle School recommendation: set up a community committee to develop suggested uses of the facility.
- Franklin Elementary recommendation: addition of 4 classrooms, 1 multi-purpose room, technology upgrades, and install air conditioning. Board members inquired about the use of South Hill Academy as 3-5 elementary building making Franklin K-2 to alleviate the crowding. In a recent survey Franklin parents expressed strong support of upgrades as presented.
- Washington Elementary recommendation: update the building for future use by the district.
- Wilson Elementary recommendation: demolish the building to save on future upkeep and retain property for future expansion.
- Southwestern Middle School recommendation: demolish the building to save on future upkeep and retain property for future expansion. Two inquiries have been made regarding the purchase of Southwestern.
- South Hill Academy recommendation: potential use is being explored by Michigan Youth Challenge Academy.

Board members requested that hard numbers be provided regarding upgrades and cost of demolition in order to make an informed decision at the November meeting.

Teacher Evaluation

Dr. Jeffrey Greene, Resource Development Coordinator, provided an update on the process and products of the teacher evaluation in response to Race To The Top changes mandated by the state. A summary of changes include:

- Annual year end evaluation for every teacher
- Student growth has to be a significant factor
- Evaluation must inform decisions on promotion, retention, tenure, and removal of teachers

The district's course of action will be to adopt a robust system aligning with the various requirements of the law, as well as adopt the state system and modify our system as necessary by 2013-2014. The committee reviewed numerous evaluation instruments and recommends adopting one used by Godfrey-Lee Public Schools which is based on structured observation, reflection, student artifacts, plan for growth and improvement. Twenty-five elements are looks at including planning and preparation, classroom environment, instruction, professional responsibility, and student achievement.

Dr. Greene praised the willing attitude and partnership with union members on the committee throughout discussions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Hicks commented on:

- Introduction – Bernard Brown, new assistant principal at Central High School, was introduced to board members.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

No comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

BATTLE CREEK BOARD OF EDUCATION
Battle Creek, Michigan

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION:

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be held Monday, October 17, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room, third floor of Willard Library.

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- * II. Approval of Agenda/Consideration of Additions or Deletions
- III. Reports
 - A. Board Committee Reports:
 - Public Relations William Burton
 - Finance Todd Stagner
 - B. MAP Testing.....Jeff Greene
 - C. Dudley STEM School Update..... Tamara Jamieson/Kathy Grosso
 - D. Trust Fund/Comerica Report (written)Deborah Gregory
- * IV. Consideration and Approval of the following Consent Agenda Items:
 - A. Minutes of the Special, Closed Session and Regular board meeting of September 19, 2011.
 - B. Bills for the month of September 2011
 - C. Personnel Report and Recognition of RetireesDianne Hatley
 - D. Reinstatement Committee RecommendationRuth Carr
- V. Public Comment
- VI. New Business
 - * A. Consideration to Approve Teacher Evaluations – Domains.....Jeff Greene
 - * B. Consideration to Approve Recommendations for Franklin Elementary SchoolLinda Hicks
 - * C. Consideration to Approve Recommendations for the Vacant School Properties.....Linda Hicks
 - * D. Consideration to Approve the Strategic PlanLinda Hicks

VII. Superintendent Comments

VIII. Board Member Comments

A. What have we done for kids?

B. What have we done to strengthen or diminish the effectiveness of our Board?

* IX. Adjournment at or before 9:00 p.m.

* *Denotes possible Board action.*